

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1-130. (cancelled)

- 5 131. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~130~~248,
 wherein said security module is further operative to encrypt power management data
 generated by said at least one IED onto said network and decrypt at least one power
 management command received by said at least one IED from said network and
 wherein said power management application comprises an encryption application
10 operative to encrypt said at least one power management command transmitted onto
 said network and decrypt said power management data received from said network.
132. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 131,
 wherein said security module and said encryption application comprises pretty good
 privacy (“PGP”).
- 15 133. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 131,
 wherein said security module and said encryption application comprises prime
 number based encryption algorithms.
134. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 131,
 wherein said encryption application comprises elliptical curve based encryption
20 algorithms.
135. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 131,
 wherein said at least one power management command and said power management
 data each comprise first and second portions, said first portion associated with a first
 encryption key and said second portion associated with a second encryption key, and
25 wherein said first key is operative to allow access to said first portion only and said
 second key is operative to allow access to said second portion only.

136. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 135, wherein said first portion includes said second portion.

137. (currently amended) An electrical power management architecture for managing an electrical power distribution system comprising:

_____ a network;

_____ at least one intelligent electronic device (“IED”) coupled with said electrical power distribution system and further coupled with said network, each of said at least one IED operative to implement a power management function in conjunction with a portion of said electrical power distribution system, said power management function operative to respond to at least one power management command and generate power management data, each of said at least one IED comprising:

_____ a first network interface operative to couple said at least one IED with said network and facilitate transmission of said power management data and receipt of said at least one power management command over said network;

_____ said architecture further comprising:

_____ a power management application coupled with said network and operative to receive and process said power management data from said at least one IED and generate said at least one power management command to said at least one IED to implement said power management function, said power management application further comprising a power quality monitoring application;

_____ said power management data further comprising status data representative of a status of said at least one IED;

wherein said at least one IED further comprises a security module coupled with said first network interface and operative to prevent unauthorized access to said power management data;~~The electrical power management architecture of Claim 130,~~

wherein said security module is further operative to augment said power management data transmitted onto said network with authentication data and authenticate said at least one power management command received from said network and said power management application comprises an authentication application operative to augment said at least one power management command transmitted onto said network

with authentication data and authenticate said power management data received from said network.

138. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~130~~248, wherein said power management application is capable of substantially
5 simultaneously receiving power management data from a plurality of said at least one IED.

139. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~130~~248, wherein said power management application comprises a data collection server coupled with said network and operative to receive said power management data.

10 140. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 139, wherein said data collection server is operated by a customer of said electrical power distribution system.

141. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 139, wherein said data collection server is operated by a provider of said electrical power
15 distribution system.

142. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 139, wherein said power management data is transmitted as electronic mail messages, said data collection server further comprising an electronic mail server.

143. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 142,
20 wherein said data collection server is further operative to receive said electronic mail messages and automatically extract said power management data into a database coupled with said data collection server.

144. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 139, wherein said power management data is transmitted in hypertext transfer protocol
25 format, said data collection server further comprising a hypertext transfer protocol server.

145. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 139, wherein said power management data is transmitted as data files, said data collection server further comprising a file transfer protocol server.
146. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 139, wherein said power management data is transmitted in extensible markup language format, said data collection server further comprising an extensible markup language server.
147. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 139, wherein said data collection server further comprises a phasor processor.
148. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said at least one IED further comprises a revenue meter and said power management application further comprises a peer to peer power management application.
149. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said power management application further comprises an electric power generation management application.
150. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said power management application further comprises a load management application.
151. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 150, wherein said load management application is operative to connect and disconnect loads to/from said electrical power distribution system.
152. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 151, wherein said load management application is further operative to disconnect loads during high rate periods and connect loads during low rate periods to reduce electrical power costs.

153. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 151, wherein said load management application is further operative to disconnect loads during high demand periods and connect loads during low demand periods to reduce electrical power demand.

5 154. (currently amended) An electrical power management architecture for managing an electrical power distribution system comprising:

a network;

at least one intelligent electronic device (“IED”) coupled with said electrical power distribution system and further coupled with said network, each of said at least one IED operative to implement a power management function in conjunction with a portion of said electrical power distribution system, said power management function operative to respond to at least one power management command and generate power management data, each of said at least one IED comprising:

a first network interface operative to couple said at least one IED with said network and facilitate transmission of said power management data and receipt of said at least one power management command over said network;

said architecture further comprising:

a power management application coupled with said network and operative to receive and process said power management data from said at least one IED and generate said at least one power management command to said at least one IED to implement said power management function, said power management application further comprising a power quality monitoring application;

said power management data further comprising status data representative of a status of said at least one IED;~~The electrical power management architecture of Claim 126;~~ wherein said power management application further comprises an IED inventory application.

155. (currently amended) An electrical power management architecture for managing an electrical power distribution system comprising:

a network;

at least one intelligent electronic device (“IED”) coupled with said electrical power distribution system and further coupled with said network, each of said at least one IED operative to implement a power management function in conjunction with a portion of said electrical power distribution system, said power management function operative to respond to at least one power management command and generate power management data, each of said at least one IED comprising:

a first network interface operative to couple said at least one IED with said network and facilitate transmission of said power management data and receipt of said at least one power management command over said network;

said architecture further comprising:

a power management application coupled with said network and operative to receive and process said power management data from said at least one IED and generate said at least one power management command to said at least one IED to implement said power management function, said power management application further comprising a power quality monitoring application;

said power management data further comprising status data representative of a status of said at least one IED;~~The electrical power management architecture of Claim 126,~~ wherein said power management application further comprises an IED maintenance application.

156. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said electrical power distribution system comprises a utility electrical power distribution network.

157. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said electrical power distribution system comprises a consumer electrical power distribution network.

158. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said network comprises a publicly accessible communications network

159. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said network comprises a Transport Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (“TCP/IP”) based network.
160. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 159,
5 wherein said network further comprises the Internet.
161. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 159, wherein said network comprises an intranet.
162. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said at least one IED comprises an electric (~~watt-hour~~) meter.
- 10 163. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said at least one IED comprises a revenue meter.
164. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said at least one IED comprises an a protection relay.
165. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248,
15 wherein said at least one IED comprises:
a legacy electric (~~watt-hour~~) meter; and
a monitoring and control device coupled with said legacy electric (~~watt-hour~~) meter, said monitoring and control device comprising said first network interface.
166. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248,
20 wherein said at least one IED comprises a phasor transducer.
167. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said power management function comprises monitoring at least one electrical power parameter of said portion of said electrical power distribution system.
168. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 167,
25 wherein said monitoring comprises monitoring by a supplier of electrical power.

169. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 167,
wherein said monitoring comprises monitoring by a consumer of electrical power.
170. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 167,
wherein said power management function further comprises computing revenue.
- 5 171. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 170,
wherein said power management function further comprises reporting said computed
revenue.
172. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 167,
wherein said power management function further comprises computing usage.
- 10 173. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 172,
wherein said power management function further comprises reporting said computed
usage.
174. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248,
wherein said power management data comprises power consumption data.
- 15 175. (cancelled)
176. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248,
wherein said at least one IED further comprises first computer logic including a
protocol stack, said protocol stack comprising at least two layers from the group
comprising:
- 20 an application layer;
 a transport layer;
 a routing layer;
 a switching layer;
 an interface layer.

177. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176, wherein said application layer comprises at least one application, said at least one application being operative to punch through a firewall.
- 5 178. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176, wherein said application layer comprises an electronic mail application and wherein said power management data is transmitted and said at least one power management command are received as at least one electronic mail message.
- 10 179. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 178, wherein said protocol stack further comprises ~~a~~said security module, said security module comprising an encryption application operative to encrypt said at least one electronic mail message, which comprises power management data, prior to said power management data being transmitted onto said network and said security module further operative to decrypt said at least one electronic mail message, which comprises at least one power management command, upon receipt from said network.
- 15 180. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 179, wherein said at least one electronic mail message each comprise first and second portions, said first portion associated with a first key and said second portion associated with a second key, and wherein said first key is operative to allow access to said first portion only and said second key is operative to allow access to said second portion only.
- 20 181. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 180, wherein said first portion includes said second portion.
182. (cancelled)
- 25 183. (currently amended) An electrical power management architecture for managing an electrical power distribution system comprising:
_____ a network;
_____ at least one intelligent electronic device (“IED”) coupled with said electrical

power distribution system and further coupled with said network, each of said at least one IED operative to implement a power management function in conjunction with a portion of said electrical power distribution system, said power management function operative to respond to at least one power management command and generate power management data, each of said at least one IED comprising:

_____ a first network interface operative to couple said at least one IED with said network and facilitate transmission of said power management data and receipt of said at least one power management command over said network;

_____ said architecture further comprising:

_____ a power management application coupled with said network and operative to receive and process said power management data from said at least one IED and generate said at least one power management command to said at least one IED to implement said power management function, said power management application further comprising a power quality monitoring application;

_____ said power management data further comprising status data representative of a status of said at least one IED;

wherein said at least one IED further comprises first computer logic including a protocol stack, said protocol stack comprising at least two layers from the group comprising:

_____ an application layer;

_____ a transport layer;

_____ a routing layer;

_____ a switching layer;

_____ an interface layer;

wherein said application layer comprises an electronic mail application and wherein said power management data is transmitted and said at least one power management command are received as at least one electronic mail message; wherein said protocol stack further comprises a security module, said security module comprising an authentication application operative to augment said power management data electronic mail messages with authentication data prior to said power management data being transmitted onto said network and said authentication application being

further operative to authenticate said at least one power management command upon receipt from said network;~~The electrical power management architecture of Claim 182,~~ wherein said authentication application comprises a cellular modem operative to determine a geographic location of said at least one IED, said authentication data including said geographic location.

184. (currently amended) An electrical power management architecture for managing an electrical power distribution system comprising:

_____ a network;

_____ at least one intelligent electronic device (“IED”) coupled with said electrical power distribution system and further coupled with said network, each of said at least one IED operative to implement a power management function in conjunction with a portion of said electrical power distribution system, said power management function operative to respond to at least one power management command and generate power management data, each of said at least one IED comprising:

_____ a first network interface operative to couple said at least one IED with said network and facilitate transmission of said power management data and receipt of said at least one power management command over said network;

_____ said architecture further comprising:

_____ a power management application coupled with said network and operative to receive and process said power management data from said at least one IED and generate said at least one power management command to said at least one IED to implement said power management function, said power management application further comprising a power quality monitoring application;

_____ said power management data further comprising status data representative of a status of said at least one IED;

wherein said at least one IED further comprises first computer logic including a protocol stack, said protocol stack comprising at least two layers from the group comprising:

_____ an application layer;

_____ a transport layer;

_____ a routing layer;

_____ a switching layer;

_____ an interface layer;

5 wherein said application layer comprises an electronic mail application and wherein
said power management data is transmitted and said at least one power management
command are received as at least one electronic mail message; wherein said protocol
stack further comprises a security module, said security module comprising an
authentication application operative to augment said power management data
10 electronic mail messages with authentication data prior to said power management
data being transmitted onto said network and said authentication application being
further operative to authenticate said at least one power management command upon
receipt from said network;~~The electrical power management architecture of Claim~~
182, wherein said authentication data includes a geographic location ID.

185. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176,
15 wherein said application layer comprises an extensible markup language (“XML”)
application and wherein said power management data is transmitted and said at least
one power management command is received in XML format.

186. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176,
wherein said application layer comprises a hypertext transfer protocol (“HTTP”) application and wherein said power management data is transmitted and said at least
20 one power management command is received in HTTP hypertext markup language
format.

187. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176,
wherein said application layer comprises a file transfer protocol application and
25 wherein said power management data is transmitted and said at least one power
management command is received as at least one data file.

188. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176,
wherein said application layer comprises an instant messaging protocol application

and wherein said power management data is transmitted and said at least one power management command is received as at least one instant message.

189. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176, wherein said application layer supports peer to peer communications with at least one other of said at least one IED over said network.

190. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176, wherein said protocol stack further comprises simple object access protocol (“SOAP”).

191. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176, wherein said protocol stack further comprises secure sockets layer (“SSL”).

192. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176, wherein said protocol stack further comprises Secure Hyper Text Transport Protocol (“S-HTTP”).

193. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176, wherein said interface layer further comprises an Ethernet interface.

194. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176, wherein said interface layer further comprises a dial up modem.

195. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176, wherein said interface layer further comprises a cellular modem.

196. (currently amended) An electrical power management architecture for managing an electrical power distribution system comprising:
 a network;
 at least one intelligent electronic device (“IED”) coupled with said electrical power distribution system and further coupled with said network, each of said at least one IED operative to implement a power management function in conjunction with a portion of said electrical power distribution system, said power management function

operative to respond to at least one power management command and generate power management data, each of said at least one IED comprising:

_____ a first network interface operative to couple said at least one IED with said network and facilitate transmission of said power management data and receipt of said at least one power management command over said network;

_____ said architecture further comprising:

_____ a power management application coupled with said network and operative to receive and process said power management data from said at least one IED and generate said at least one power management command to said at least one IED to implement said power management function, said power management application further comprising a power quality monitoring application;

_____ said power management data further comprising status data representative of a status of said at least one IED;

wherein said at least one IED further comprises first computer logic including a protocol stack, said protocol stack comprising at least two layers from the group comprising:

_____ an application layer;

_____ a transport layer;

_____ a routing layer;

_____ a switching layer;

_____ an interface layer;

wherein said interface layer further comprises a cellular modem;~~The electrical power management architecture of Claim 195,~~ wherein said cellular modem is further operative to provide geographic location information of said at least one IED to said application layer.

197. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176, wherein said interface layer further comprises a Bluetooth interface.

198. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176, wherein said interface layer further comprises an AC power line communications interface.
199. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 176,
5 wherein said interface layer further comprises an RF interface.
200. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said power management application further comprises a centralized power management application.
201. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248,
10 wherein said power management application further comprises a distributed power management application.
202. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said power management application further comprises an application
15 program interface to allow at least one power management application to interface with said electrical power management architecture.
203. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126~~248, wherein said power quality monitoring application is operative to monitor for degradation of power quality across said electrical power distribution system.
204. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 203,
20 wherein said power quality monitoring application comprises a local power quality monitoring application on a first of said at least one IED and operative to detect said degradation of power quality on said portion of said electrical power distribution system and report said degradation of power quality to a second of said at least one IED.
- 25 205. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 204, wherein said second of said at least one IED is downstream of said first of said at least one IED on said electrical power distribution system and further wherein said

degradation of power quality comprises a catastrophic power quality event, said first of said at least one IED operative to warn said second of said at least one IED of said catastrophic power quality event.

206. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126248~~, wherein said power quality monitoring application is operative to detect a fault in said electrical power distribution system.

207. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126248~~, wherein said power quality monitoring application is operative to correct a fault in said electrical power distribution system.

208. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126248~~, wherein said power quality monitoring application is operative to locate a fault in said electrical power distribution system.

209. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126248~~, wherein said power quality monitoring application is operative to isolate a fault in said electrical power distribution system.

210. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 209, wherein said power quality monitoring application is further operative to control at least one protection relay coupled with said electrical power distribution system.

211. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim ~~126248~~, wherein said power management application further comprises a power distribution system reliability monitoring application.

212. (currently amended) A method of managing an electrical power distribution system, said electrical power distribution system comprising an electrical power management architecture, said architecture comprising a network, at least one intelligent electronic device (“IED”) coupled with a portion of said electrical power distribution system, and further coupled with said network, and a power management application coupled with said network, said method comprising:

_____ (a) implementing a power management function with each of said at least one IED in conjunction with said portion of said electrical power distribution system;

_____ (b) generating said power management data from said power management function; said power management data further comprising status data of said at least one IED;

_____ (c) securing said power management data from unauthorized access;

_____ (d) transmitting said secured power management data over said network;

_____ (e) receiving said secured power management data by said power management application;

_____ (f) authenticating said secured power management data;

_____ (g) processing said authenticated power management data;

_____ (h) generating at least one power management command by said power management application;

_____ (i) securing said at least one power management command from unauthorized access;

_____ (j) transmitting said secured at least one power management command over said network;

_____ (k) receiving said secured at least one power management command by at least one of said at least one IED;

_____ (l) authenticating said secured at least one power management command;

_____ (m) responding to said authenticated at least one power management command to implement said power management function;

~~The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 129,~~

wherein said power management application further comprises an IED fraud detection application.

213. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said at least one IED comprises an electric (watt-hour) meter.

214. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said at least one IED comprises a revenue meter.
215. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said at least one IED comprises ~~an~~ a protection relay.
- 5 216. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said at least one IED comprises:
- a legacy electric (~~watt-hour~~) meter; and
 - a monitoring and control device coupled with said legacy electric (~~watt-hour~~) meter, said monitoring and control device further comprising a network interface
- 10 coupled with said network.
217. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said at least one IED comprises a phasor transducer.
218. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said method further comprises:
- 15 ~~(m)~~(n) monitoring electrical power quality on said portion of said electrical power distribution system and generating at least one power quality event.
219. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 218, wherein said method further comprises:
- 20 ~~(n)~~(o) reporting said at least one power quality event monitored on said portion of said electrical power distribution system.
220. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said method further comprises:
- ~~(m)~~(n) measuring by said at least one IED at least one phasor parameter of said portion of said electrical power distribution system.
- 25 221. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~212, wherein said method further comprises:

(m) controlling electrical power flow on said portion of said electrical power distribution system.

222. (previously presented) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 221, wherein said method further comprises:

5 (n) controlling electrical generation systems coupled with said portion of said electrical power distribution system.

223. (previously presented) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 221, wherein said method further comprises:

10 (n) controlling loading on said portion of said electrical power distribution system.

224. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said power management data comprises power consumption data.

15 225. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said power management data comprises power quality data.

226. (cancelled)

227. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said method further comprises:

20 ~~(m)~~(n) computing at least one of revenue or cost using tariff/billing data contained within said at least one power management command.

228. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said method further comprises:

25 ~~(m)~~(n) controlling a portion of said electrical power distribution system in response to said at least one power management command.

229. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 228, wherein said method further comprises:

~~(m)~~(o) de-energizing said portion of said electrical power distribution system in response to said at least one power management command.

5 230. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 228, wherein a first of said at least one IED is further coupled with a load, said load being further coupled with said portion of said electrical power distribution system, said method further comprises:

10 ~~(m)~~(o) at least one of connecting and disconnecting said load from said portion of said electrical power distribution system in response to said at least one power management command.

231. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said power management application further comprises a centralized power management application.

15 232. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said power management application further comprises a distributed power management application.

20 233. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said power management application comprises an application program interface to allow at least one power management application to interface with said electrical power management architecture.

234. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said method further comprises:

25 ~~(m)~~(n) receiving said power management data by said power management application, said power management application further comprising a data collection server;

~~(m)~~(o) transmitting said power management data as electronic mail messages, said data collection server further comprising an electronic mail server.

235. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said method further comprises:
- ~~(m)~~(n) receiving said power management data by said power management application, said power management application further comprising a data collection server coupled with said network;
- ~~(n)~~(o) transmitting said power management data in extensible markup language format, said data collection server further comprising an extensible markup language server.
236. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~212, wherein said power management application comprises an automated meter reading application.
237. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~236~~243, wherein said automated meter reading application further comprises a billing management application.
238. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 237, wherein said method further comprises:
- ~~(m)~~(n) transmitting a command from said billing management application to each of said at least one IED over said network to cause said at least one IED to transmit billing data to said billing management application over said network.
239. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 237, wherein said method further comprises:
- ~~(m)~~(n) transmitting billing data by each of said at least one IED to said billing management application.
240. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 239, wherein said transmitting further comprises:
- ~~(n)~~(o) transmitting billing data by said at least one IED according to a pre-defined schedule.

241. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 239, wherein said transmitting further comprises:

~~(n)~~(o) transmitting billing data by said at least one IED in response to a pre-defined event.

5 242. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 236, wherein said automated meter reading application further comprises a consumption management application.

243. (currently amended) A method of managing an electrical power distribution system, said electrical power distribution system comprising an electrical power management architecture, said architecture comprising a network, at least one intelligent electronic device (“IED”) coupled with a portion of said electrical power distribution system, and further coupled with said network, and a power management application coupled with said network, said method comprising:

10 _____ (a) implementing a power management function with each of said at least one IED in conjunction with said portion of said electrical power distribution system;

15 _____ (b) generating said power management data from said power management function; said power management data further comprising status data of said at least one IED;

_____ (c) securing said power management data from unauthorized access;

20 _____ (d) transmitting said secured power management data over said network;

_____ (e) receiving said secured power management data by said power management application;

_____ (f) authenticating said secured power management data;

_____ (g) processing said authenticated power management data;

25 _____ (h) generating at least one power management command by said power management application;

_____ (i) securing said at least one power management command from unauthorized access;

_____ (i) transmitting said secured at least one power management command

over said network;

(j) receiving said secured at least one power management command by at least one of said at least one IED;

(k) authenticating said secured at least one power management command;

(l) responding to said authenticated at least one power management command to implement said power management function; The electrical power management architecture of Claim 242, wherein said power management application comprises an automated meter reading application; wherein said automated meter reading application further comprises a consumption management application;

wherein said electrical power distribution system distributes power generated by a first supplier, said method further comprising:

(m) switching said electrical power distribution system to distribute power from a second supplier in response to a cost of said power from said first and second suppliers by said consumption management application.

244. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 242, wherein said method further comprises:

(m) reducing consumption on said portion of said electrical power distribution system in response to rate changes by said consumption management application.

245. (previously presented) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 242, wherein said method further comprises:

(m) monitoring and tracking costs associated with consumption on said electrical power distribution system by said consumption management application.

246. (currently amended) The electrical power management architecture of Claim 245, wherein said method further comprises:

~~(m)~~(n) monitoring and tracking costs in substantially real time by said consumption management application.

247. (currently amended) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim ~~129~~243, wherein said power management data comprises at least one power management command to at least one other of said at least one IED.

248. (previously presented) An electrical power management architecture for managing an electrical power distribution system comprising:

a network;

at least one intelligent electronic device (“IED”) coupled with said electrical power distribution system and further coupled with said network, each of said at least one IED operative to implement a power management function in conjunction with a portion of said electrical power distribution system, said power management function operative to respond to at least one power management command and generate power management data, each of said at least one IED comprising:

a first network interface operative to couple said at least one IED with said network and facilitate transmission of said power management data and receipt of said at least one power management command over said network;

a security module coupled with said first network interface and operative to prevent unauthorized access to said power management data;

said architecture further comprising:

a power management application coupled with said network and operative to receive and process said power management data from said at least one IED and generate said at least one power management command to said at least one IED to implement said power management function, said power management application further comprising a power quality monitoring application;

wherein said security module is further operative to augment said power management data transmitted onto said network with authentication data and authenticate said at least one power management command received from said network and said power management application comprises an authentication application operative to augment said at least one power management command transmitted onto said network with authentication data and authenticate said power management data received from said network.

249. (previously presented) An electrical power management architecture for managing an electrical power distribution system comprising:

a network;

at least one intelligent electronic device (“IED”) coupled with said electrical power distribution system and further coupled with said network, each of said at least one IED operative to implement a power management function in conjunction with a portion of said electrical power distribution system, said power management function operative to respond to at least one power management command and generate power management data, each of said at least one IED comprising:

a first network interface operative to couple said at least one IED with said network and facilitate transmission of said power management data and receipt of said at least one power management command over said network;

a security module coupled with said first network interface and operative to prevent unauthorized access to said power management data;

said architecture further comprising:

a power management application coupled with said network and operative to receive and process said power management data from said at least one IED and generate said at least one power management command to said at least one IED to implement said power management function, said power management application further comprising a power reliability monitoring application;

wherein said security module is further operative to augment said power management data transmitted onto said network with authentication data and authenticate said at least one power management command received from said network and said power management application comprises an authentication application operative to augment said at least one power management command transmitted onto said network with authentication data and authenticate said power management data received from said network.

250. (previously presented) An electrical power management architecture for managing an electrical power distribution system comprising:

a network;

at least one intelligent electronic device (“IED”) coupled with said electrical power distribution system and further coupled with said network, each of said at least one IED operative to implement a power management function in conjunction with a portion of said electrical power distribution system, said power management function operative to respond to at least one power management command and generate power management data, each of said at least one IED comprising:

a first network interface operative to couple said at least one IED with said network and facilitate transmission of said power management data and receipt of said at least one power management command over said network; and

a security module coupled with said first network interface and operative to prevent unauthorized access to said power management data;

said architecture further comprising:

a power management application coupled with said network and operative to receive and process said power management data from said at least one IED and generate said at least one power management command to said at least one IED to implement said power management function, said power management application further comprising a power outage application;

wherein said security module is further operative to augment said power management data transmitted onto said network with authentication data and authenticate said at least one power management command received from said network and said power management application comprises an authentication application operative to augment said at least one power management command transmitted onto said network with authentication data and authenticate said power management data received from said network.

251. (new) The electrical power management architecture of claim 249, wherein said at least one IED comprises an electric meter.

252. (new) The electrical power management architecture of claim 250, wherein said at least one IED comprises an electric meter.

253. (new) The electrical power management architecture of claim 248, wherein said authentication application comprises a cellular modem operative to determine a geographic location of said at least one IED, said authentication data including said geographic location.
- 5 254. (new) The electrical power management architecture of claim 248, wherein said authentication data includes a geographic location ID.
255. (new) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of claim 212, wherein said at least one IED comprises an electric meter.
256. (new) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 212,
10 wherein said at least one IED comprises a revenue meter.
257. (new) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 212, wherein said at least one IED comprises a protection relay.
258. (new) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 212, wherein said at least one IED comprises:
15 a legacy electric meter; and
a monitoring and control device coupled with said legacy electric meter, said monitoring and control device further comprising a network interface coupled with said network.
259. (new) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 212,
20 wherein said method further comprises:
(m) monitoring electrical power quality on said portion of said electrical power distribution system and generating at least one power quality event.
260. (new) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 212, wherein said automated meter reading application further comprises a billing
25 management application.

261. (new) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 260, wherein said method further comprises:

(m) transmitting a command from said billing management application to each of said at least one IED over said network to cause said at least one IED to transmit billing data to said billing management application over said network.

262. (new) The method of managing an electrical power distribution system of Claim 212, wherein said method further comprises:

(m) receiving said power management data by said power management application, said power management application further comprising a data collection server coupled with said network;

(n) transmitting said power management data in extensible markup language format, said data collection server further comprising an extensible markup language server.